Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Cuban Parliament Speaker Views Helms-Burton Bill

BR1107140795 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Jul 95 p 16

[Interview with Cuban Parliament speaker Ricardo Alarcon by Javier Espinosa in Havana; date not given: "Helms Bill Will Entail Self-Imposed Blockade for United States" — first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana — Ricardo Alarcon, former ambassador to the United Nations, former foreign minister, and current Cuban Parliament speaker, is one of the Caribbean island's best known faces. Genial and free from the customs of orthodoxy, Alarcon has recently become — with the acquiescence of Castro himself — one of the main promoters of the gradual liberalization which the Cuban regime seems to support.

[Espinosa] Over the past few days, the Cuban authorities seem to have sought to turn Sunday's municipal elections into a kind of anti-Helms bill referendum. Now many party officials are asserting that the huge turnout recorded is to be explained as a reaction to this plan.

[Alarcon] Look, the patriotic feeling and the rejection which the Helms-Burton Bill provoke among Cubans is certainly one of the reasons which prompted the large turnout. However, most of those who went to vote had already done so in other elections.

[Espinosa] The Burton bill could be voted on today, Tuesday. What effect would its approval have on relations between Cuba and the United States?

[Alarcon] If the Helms-Burton bill is approved, there will never be a solution between the United States and Cuba, because a Yankee recolonization — which in fact is what this legislation seeks — will never be accepted. At the same time, it serves to make clear the true face of the U.S. far Right and of the worst sectors of the Miami exiles, who have expressed what they think for the first time. They do not seek democracy, a multiparty system; this could be established in the island and, according to the Helms-Burton bill, the blockade would continue until the last nail is returned to them. Moreover, it is not the U.S. businessmen who are demanding the return of their possessions; it is the "Batistaists," the dictatorship's followers, who are demanding them.

[Espinosa] Why do you describe the plan as irrational?

[Alarcon] Because it is absurd. How are they going to stand up to all their trading partners? It is an idiotic scheme which would not just create difficulties in the United States' international relations but would turn out extremely expensive for it.

[Espinosa] Do you not believe that possible approval of that legislation would deter possible foreign investments?

[Alarcon] That could happen, but for the present we have not observed that trend, and I also believe that it would be an insignificant number of investors. That bill would fail resoundingly, because the rest of the world will continue to trade with us. In short, it is the United States which is applying to itself a self-imposed blockade which gravely harms its businessmen.

[Espinosa] At the same time as the debate on the Helms-Burton bill, the latest newspaper reports from the United States seem to hint at a possible change in that country's policy toward Cuba. Is that your perception?

[Alarcon] If I have to go by the U.S. Government's tactics, no. However, it is true that the U.S. news media reflect a public opinion which long ago realized the failure of the blockade and the need to reconsider our bilateral relations.

[Espinosa] Following his recent visit to the island, opposition member Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo seems to be claiming the right to establish his group lawfully in Cuba. Will this be possible?

[Alarcon] I do not know what Menoyo sought during his visit to Cuba. However, I will tell you that the fact that a gentleman such as Menoyo, with his background, can come to our country has an enormous significance. This confirms something that we have always said: Not all the Miami Cubans are in favor of the blockade.

[Espinosa] Fidel Castro himself acknowledged Sunday that "corruption" cases stemming from the gradual economic liberalization are beginning to manifest themselves in the island. How widespread have these practices become?

[Alarcon] They bear no comparison with what seems to happen abroad. However, it is true that we have begun to detect the first cases. The important thing is to curb them in time, because they violate the spirit of our social system.

SRV Vice Foreign Minister Urges End to U.S. Blockade

FL1207161595 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 12 Jul 95

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Vietnamese Government asked that the U.S. Government end the economic,

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financial, and trade blockade against Cuba and respect Cuba's right to choose its own political and economic destiny. During a press conference with foreign correspondents accredited in Hanoi, Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai stated that it is a basic right recognized by international law.

With regard to the announcement of the reestablishment of relations between Hanoi and Washington, Le Mai stated that the United States should end its blockade policy against Cuba and let the Cuban people exercise their right of self-determination.

In the early 60's, Washington imposed a severe and isolating circle — even politically — on Cuba, which has cost over $40 billion, according to official statistics.

Currently a proposed bill, sponsored by Republican Senator Jesse Helms, could cause Cubans further dire difficulties, due to the extra-territorial implications it carries.

Last week high-ranking officials from the Vietnamese Communist Party and Government ratified their complete support of the Cuban Revolution.

U.S. Affairs Chief Interviewed on Helms-Burton Bill

FL1207030695 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Rafael Dausa, deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman and head of the U.S. Affairs Department, by correspondent Zenaida Costales; from the "Exclusive" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Costales] Good evening. I have established contact with the Cuban Foreign Ministry. Comrade Rafael Dausa, chief of the U.S. Affairs Department, is on the line. Dausa, we were speaking with you about the news that just moments ago the Helms-Burton bill was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee [comite de relaciones internacionales]. I would like you to explain to us under what conditions the bill was approved.

[Dausa] Yes, of course. We just learned moments ago that the bill was approved in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. According to information we have here, it was approved by 28 votes in favor, nine opposed, and approximately four Congressmen were absent, as we understand it. The level of anti-Cuban sentiment and the level of influence that certain anti-Cuban Congressmen have in the committee was not really surprising. However, what is surprising to us is that the bill had to be put to a vote five different times. Finally they succeeded in getting the 28 votes in favor and nine opposed in this round, which was an especially partisan vote. All the Republican Congressmen except one, voted against our nation, or for this anti-Cuban monstrosity.

[Costales] Dausa, we understand that passage through this committee does not mean the bill will be approved. Could you explain the future route the bill must follow to become a law?

[Dausa] Yes, of course. There is a still long road ahead for passage of this bill. I believe this is a step the anti-Cubans won, but they should not celebrate victory yet. I believe this bill could get extremely complicated. Although we should not be very optimistic, I firmly believe a long road lies ahead for approval of the bill. According to our information, the bill must be approved by another committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, and by the House of Representatives plenum. It must also go through the Senate. The U.S. Senate must vote on it — perhaps some committee will take certain action on the bill. It must also pass the Senate plenum. Likewise, since both texts — the text of the House of Representatives Helms bill, and the text of the Burton bill — are not the same, in the event they were approved in both the Senate and the House, they would then have to be reconciled by a bicameral committee. After that, if this should occur, there is also the possibility that the president would veto the bill, or he would not veto the bill. Therefore, I believe there is still a long road ahead for this anti-Cuban monstrosity in its journey through the U.S. Congress.

[Costales] What does this newest advancement of the Helms-Burton bill toward possible approval in the U.S. Congress mean to Cuba?

[Dausa] Well, I believe that it is evident that forces in the U.S. Congress are moving against the Cuban Revolution and against the Cuban nation, and that these forces undoubtedly try in every way possible to rarefy the climate between Cuba and the United States and try to make the historic dispute between our two nations practically insoluble. For example, just approving this monstrosity of a bill as a law would in fact make it the official U.S. policy toward our country, and we all have an idea of what that would mean.

In any case, I believe we Cubans must all be keep in mind that in the first place, the laws of Cuba are made in Cuba. The Cuban Parliament makes our laws, they are not made in any U.S. Congress. Therefore, where it is true that this law could have a negative impact, we are certain that the Cuban Revolution, and the Cuban people — as they proved in the recent elections — are going to continue forward with or without the Helms-Burton Law.

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Commentary Notes Recent Election Turnout, Helms-Burton Bill

FL1207180795 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Commentary by Luis Manuel Saenz from the "Exclusive" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today approved the Helms-Burton bill to strengthen the blockade against Cuba in spite of widespread opposition.

The debate took place scarcely 48 hours after a 97.1 turnout for Cuban elections of delegates to the Municipal Assemblies of the People's Government. The massive turnout disputes any kind of pressure or argument about Cuban democracy. The people voted for democracy, and has decided to defend it.

A local commentator called this afternoon's committee session a mere formality, the bill having recently had 17 amendments attached to it.

Cubans are not the only ones repulsed by the monstrosity of this bill. The World Trade Organization, among others, recently warned the U.S. Government that the eventual approval of the bill would violate the organization' statutes. And the vast majority of U.N. members have opposed the U.S. blockade to Cuba.

International observers agree that the bill creates contradictions, even among conservative sectors in the House of Representatives. Before being approved, the Helms-Burton bill was presented four times to representatives who did not agree.

The extra-territorial character of the bill is one of the most sensitive issues, because it penalizes third countries doing business with Cuba while it forbids the United States to trade with enterprises connected to Cuba.

Thereby, the most ultra-conservative representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives showed their arrogance and political obstinacy when they ignored all the above mentioned evidence.

However, the people's demonstration on Sunday, particularly during these special times, will have more moral and political power than a ballot in any of the U.S. legislative bodies.

Cuba emerges once more before the world as a free, independent, and sovereign nation.

Parliamentary Leader Notes Opposition to Helms-Burton Bill

PA1307024095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0013 GMT 13 Jul 95

[By Alejandro Gomez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Jul (PL) — The anti-Cuban Helms-Burton draft bill may be approved, but to implement it, the United States will first have to get rid of all of the honest and dignified citizens of Cuba, a ranking parliamentary leader stated today.

At a public hearing on the draft bill at the Antillana Steel Plant in this capital, Jorge Lezcano Perez, chairman of the Permanent International Relations Commission [Comision Permanente de Relaciones Internacionales] of the National Assembly of the People's Government (parliament), noted that there is a big difference between the bill's approval and its implementation.

Nevertheless, Lezcano told PRENSA LATINA that the draft bill has not yet been adopted by the United States, and he added that it has a long way to go before it is definitely approved.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday approved the Helms-Burton bill by a vote of 28-9. The bill must now be submitted to another House committee.

Evaluating the Helms-Burton Bill, Lezcano said it clearly shows the intentions of U.S. politicians who are truly reactionary toward Cuba.

He added: "This bill tends to make more harsh the U.S. blockade against the country, and it reveals the true objective of the U.S. position on Cuba: to Colonize Cuba, to annex Cuba, and to seize full control of Cuba."

Lezcano noted that the measure harms various interests throughout the world, because it violates the sovereignty of third countries, and this is why it has elicited so much opposition.

Also, he said the measure damages the interests of the U.S. Government, because it restricts the President's power and harms U.S. businessmen who will not have a chance to invest in Cuba as long as the blockade exists.

During the hearing, Antillana Steel Plant workers agreed to propose that the Cuban state draft a statement to express the Cuban people's opposition to the Helms-Burton draft bill.

The workers also agreed to send their signatures to President William Clinton, U.S. lawmakers and U.S. metal workers as a sign of opposition to the proposed draft.

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Electrical technician Juvenil Figueroa said, "The best response to this flawed proposal was given by the people in last Sunday's partial elections in which 97.1 percent of the Cuban electorate exercised its right to vote."

Charge d'Affaires to UN Comments on Helms-Burton Bill

PA1307042595 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Cuban Magda Bauta, charge d'affaires of Cuban mission to the United Nations, in Geneva, by Marianela Calderin; at the Radio Havana Cuba studios in Havana; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calderin] We are in contact with Geneva, Switzerland. We will talk to Magda Bauta, charge d'affaires of the Cuban representation to the headquarters of international organizations. This conversation follows reports yesterday on the Cuba's presentation before that body in Geneva of a declaration in which the island rejects the intensification of the blockade against Cuba. Magda, will you tell us about this declaration, and under what specific circumstances was it presented yesterday?

[Bauta] This declaration, which was drafted by compañero (Ernesto Marciota), adviser for multilateral commercial affairs at the mission, was presented yesterday before the General Council of the World Trade Organization [WTO]. Taking into account the technical characteristics of this forum, the delegation's presentation focused on three main aspects:

First, the way in which the Helms-Burton Bill contradicts Article 11 of the GATT-WTO of 1994 that is part of the WTO charter agreement that expressly bans commercial embargoes among countries.

Second, this bill also violates the WTO General Services Agreement that specifies that states must facilitate the movement of persons involved in commercial transactions.

Also it was stated that the Helms-Burton Bill contradicts the agreements reached in Marrakech in April 1994 that declared and proclaimed that a new commercial era would start among the states based precisely on the facilities that would be given for this activity, for the promotion of investments, and so on.

The declaration also urged the WTO to issue an opinion on this issue, taking into account all the elements I mentioned, that is, how the Helms-Burton Bill not only violates the letter and spirit of what was multilaterally legislated to ensure the good development of international commercial activity.

The EU supported Cuba's declaration. It reaffirmed the well-known position of that group of rejecting the Helms-Burton Bill. The delegations of Mexico and Colombia, which recalled a recent declaration agreed upon by the Rio Group countries in Quito in May, also voiced their firm support.

[Calderin] What scope, what strength could the Cuban position, the arguments presented yesterday at this international organization have to pressure the United States into lifting the measures... [pauses] or the economic siege against Cuba?

[Bauta] What is clear is that it is groundless. They are not only arbitrary measures, but they also contradict what was multilaterally legislated and agreed upon by all countries, including the United States. That is, in other words, the clear political message. This legislative bill violates all international legislation agreed upon, and I insist again, with the participation of the United States to ensure good development of international commerce.

As for the impact, I think that I need only point out that the fact that a country such as Mexico, which is linked to the United States through the free trade agreement, took the floor yesterday to voice one of the most vigorous positions in favor of Cuba. In other words, I presume that if there is a willingness to be understanding, the least Messrs. Helms and Burton could do would be to try to frame their actions within international law, because the violations of the bill they are proposing in fact make this bill contrary and antagonistic to international law.

Colombian Vice President's Visit 'Best Response' to U.S. Pressure

FL1307120895 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 95

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colombian Vice President Humberto de la Calle's scheduled visit to Cuba on 14 July was interpreted in Bogota as the best response to U.S. economic pressures against our country. In an exclusive interview with PRENSA LATINA, de la Calle stated he is honored to conduct an official visit to Havana. He affirmed that this is a clear signal that the Colombian Government will continue to cultivate ties with Cuba. The Colombian vice president expressed his most energetic rejection to the intent of certain U.S. sectors who seek to recreate the economic blockade against Cuba with the so-called Helms-Burton bill. De la Calle pointed out that this type of measure not only hinders the smooth flow of open trade, but also entails humanitarian elements that Colombia does not share.

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Allende Willing To Discuss Human Rights With EU

BR1307110895 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 8 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Ignacio Cembrero: "Cuban Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Says Her Country Agrees To Talk About Human Rights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid — Isabel Allende, Cuba's deputy minister for foreign affairs, hopes that what she calls the "exile" of her country by Europe will come to an end. To overcome this marginalization through a cooperation agreement between Cuba and the EU, she said that her government is prepared to talk about "any topic with Brussels, including human rights." On her way back from a trip to Sofia, Budapest, and Bonn, Allende stopped over in Madrid, before returning to Havana.

Last week, the European Commission asked the EU Council of Ministers for the go-ahead to initiate exploratory talks with Havana to subsequently negotiate a cooperation agreement. Cuba is the only Latin American country that has not concluded a cooperation agreement with Brussels. The European Commission will receive, probably on 17 July, approval from the Community foreign ministers.

It is the opinion of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is leading Spain's six-month EU presidency, and of Commission Vice President Manuel Marin that the Community's offer must coincide with Fidel Castro's regime furthering the liberal economic reforms begun in July 1993 and broadening individual freedom.

Brussels' proposal, if it comes about, "is a response to an objective and to a legitimate aspiration by Cuba," Allende said. "The Cuban authorities are prepared to talk with the Europeans about any subject, including human rights, provided this is done in a spirit of mutual respect," he added.

As for the economic reforms, the deputy minister recalled that in addition to restructuring the state apparatus, "greater autonomy will be granted to state-owned companies so that they will become competitive," yet they will not be privatized. "This year we are going to amend the law on foreign investment in order to facilitate the creation of companies" on the island. Last, she continued, self-employment "is spreading to include professionals provided that they do not practice their skills in the private sector, but rather in a different sector."

Marin's project draws its inspiration to a great extent from the agreement which the EU concluded with Vietnam, but which the EU had begun to negotiate before Washington had established diplomatic relations with Hanoi. In exchange for the agreement the Hanoi regime agreed to have an Asian regional public bank oversee the economic adjustments in Vietnam and let up on political pressure.

Allende did not rule out anything. "No experiment can be transferred just like that, but we are open to including any positive aspects," she stated. "We have already made a major adjustment — the budget deficit has dropped from 5 billion pesos in 1993 to 1 billion this year — and we did it without external financing.

"Before giving a response about bank supervision we would like to know, for example, what kind of credit lines we will be granted," she said. "There is no doubt that cooperation and external financing will make our lives easier," she said. "They would have a positive impact on the reform process, and would make it more flexible."

With regard to the release of political prisoners, the deputy minister was more reserved. European embassies in Havana calculate that there are between 300 and 500 such prisoners, but she wondered whether they were "really prisoners of conscience." "In Spain the penal code is being revised and in Cuba perhaps we should think about doing the same thing," she added without actually saying whether political crimes could be eliminated.

She then praised "the will of the Spanish presidency of the EU" to implement the dialogue with Cuba, but she also suspected that other member states might set up obstacles." "It is hard to understand why they have all restricted their relations with Havana in recent years." She also feared that the United States would not be pleased with the European initiative because "it is a step contrary to U.S. interests."

Correction to Castro News Conference

PA1107022995

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Castro Election Day News Conference" published in the 10 July edition of the Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 9:

first column, last paragraph, last sentence reads: ....self-employed worker, farmers' markets [mercados agropecuarios], to a certain.... (changing word, adding vernacular)

second column, first paragraph, only sentence reads: ....really want the farmers' markets.... (changing words)

second column, paragraph three, penultimate sentence reads: ....others through the farmers' markets. There is an.... (changing words).

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Haiti

Suspect in Murder of U.S. Embassy Employees in Custody

PA1207190195 Paris AFP in Spanish 1644 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Port-of-Prince, 12 Jul (AFP) — Official sources today reported that the alleged killer of two Haitian employees of the U.S. Embassy in Port-of-Prince were turned over to Haitian police by the security services of the Dominican Republic, where the suspect was in hiding.

College Francois, a 25-year-old former soldier who was a bodyguard for U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Swing, is accused of killing two U.S. Embassy employees and seriously wounding a third during a bloody attack on 11 November 1994.

The attack took place during an attempt to steal $80,000 in cash, an amount equal to the payroll of a majority of the Haitian employees who work at the diplomatic mission.

CEP Criticized; Election Results Released Following Negotiations

'Political Negotiations' Over Weekend

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We have learned that, reportedly, the publication of [election] results was delayed by political negotiations between, on the one hand, the main political groups and, on the other hand, between the parties, the CEP [Provisional Electoral Council], and foreign diplomats. Nothing about these attempts [tentatives], which took place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, has leaked out. At least five party leaders participated in these discussions, which concerned the 25 June elections — elections that have given rise to much controversy.

MRN's Theodore: Fire CEP

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rene Theodore continues to attack the CEP on all fronts. Theodore says the MRN [National Renovation Movement] affirms once again that the CEP should be fired. Theodore has once again criticized the executive's behavior vis-a-vis the electoral council.

[Begin Theodore recording in Creole] It's a pity, and extremely serious, for an electoral council to commit all these abuses as it is setting in place an election that concerns a mass of individual candidates — each with his own interests — and that concerns political parties. They too [word indistinct] for a number of candidates together, and for things to take place outside all legal rules, even outside the regulations that the CEP had set up itself. [sentence as heard] And then, despite everything — despite that entire (?mess), to have the CEP receive the support of the government — the executive — and the president of the Republic... [pauses] I won't say president, rather, chief of state. Furthermore, he should settle the matter and fire that electoral council.

This is something I continue to demand. Even if it doesn't work, I [words indistinct] firing of the electoral council via legal channels.

Whatever the results of the process may be, we hope only that the entire Haitian people will understand that both the executive and the CEP that is bound to him, associated with him [words indistinct], are not only mistaken but are doing the country great harm [yo pote peyi a youn move kou]. [end recording]

Conacom: Void Where Irregularities

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Conacom [National Congress of Democratic Movements] insists that the CEP declare the elections null and void in the places where irregularities were noted. Conacom leader Victor Benoit thinks this decision should be the object of consultations between the political class and the CEP. Benoit has also reacted to the CEP's latest communique regarding the elections.

[Begin Benoit recording in Creole and French] We know we are not part of the forces that are against change, and we are not bad losers, either. We don't know what the CEP's source of information is. We don't know what its criteria is for coming out and saying who wants change and who doesn't. All we know is that the electoral law is on our side. In the light of the electoral law, we say that what was done on 25 June is not good. That's why we made proposals that we think are realistic and which express our spirit of [word indistinct]; that is, for them to hold the elections anew in the places where serious disorders occurred, and also in the places where elections were not held. We think that the CEP, when establishing a list of such places, must do it jointly with the political parties.

Second, we think that the electoral apparatus, the way it was set up, is not good, because there was a lot of damage done to BED [Departmental Electoral Offices], BEC [Communal Electoral Offices], and BIV

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[Registration and Voting Offices]. Something must be done about that. [end recording]

16 Deputies, 4 Senators Elected

Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French
1030 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the 25 June elections were made public this morning at around 0145 [0545 GMT]. A total of 16 deputies were elected nationwide, as well as four senators. The Lavalas people won big.

The four senators elected during the first round of elections are the following: In the Department of the Northwest — Lavalas candidate (Jadotte, Rose Hache), who got a total 0.52 percent of the vote. Another Lavalas candidate, (Laguerre, Jean-Joseph), won for the Department of the South. He too got 0.52 percent of the vote. The other two are in the Department of the Northeast: (Daniel, Jean-Claude), who got a total of 0.60 percent of the vote, and (Pierre-Louis, Lucien), who got 0.57 percent of the vote.

These four senators are automatically elected, based on that percentage, as calculated by the CEP. They will not have to participate in the second round of elections.

I remind listeners that for the Department of the West, no candidate was elected directly in the first round. Of course, all the candidates will have to participate in the second round of elections in order to be elected. [sentence as heard] I remind listeners that, for the Department of the West, the four leading candidates are: First, (Wesner Emmanuel), followed by Jean-Robert Sabalat, Turneb Delp, and (Eddy Jeune) — and why not cite (Georges, Amos) and Mirlande Manigat.

Thus, those four senators — (Wesner Emmanuel), Sabalat, Delpe, and (Eddy Jeune) — got the most points [as heard], thus permitting them to participate in the second round of elections. For the others, they will also have a right to participate in the second round, but those four got the most points; that is, they are at the top of the list of results of the first round of the 25 June elections.

'Atmosphere' Around CEP Offices Described

Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French
1030 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Report by "Roosevelt," including live relay via telephone with mobile radio unit]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After several days of waiting — and several hours of waiting in front of the offices of the CEP last night — the CEP finally published the results of the 25 June elections. I remind listeners that the CEP made public at 0145 last night [0545 GMT on 12 July] — after long hours of waiting — the results of the first round for the positions of senator and deputy.

For seven departments — West, Center, South, Southeast, Artibonite, Northeast, and Northwest — only the results of the races for the position of deputy have, as yet, been given. For the remaining two departments — Grand'Anse and North — the results of the races for mayor and Casec member [Administrative Council for the Communal Section] will be published today.

We have learned from a source close to the CEP that the CEP will confirm the date for the partial elections after consultations with the Haitian printers concerned. Meanwhile, be informed that 16 deputies and four senators have been elected. Elected are: (Wesner Emmanuel) and Jean-Robert Sabalat — followed very closely by Turneb Delpe and (Eddy Jeune).

Also elected are: (Georges Amos), Mirlande Manigat, (Dumerval Beauharnais), (Aupont Robert), (Pasteura Leroy), (Claude, Marie-Denise), (Bifrette, Fritz), (Demosthenes, Paul), (Jean-Louis Athanase), (Petit, Lucien), (Sanon, Armand), (Calixte, Phyto), (Pierre, Fritz), (Moise, Ernst), (Alfred, Joudersot H.), (Saint-Louis, Altide), (Dumas, Jean Arnold), (Christophonte, Jean-Claude), (Jean Cyprien Justin), (Pioux, Raymond), (Belercy, Jean A.), and (Bastien Polynice).

Those are some of the candidates from the Department of the West.

However, I remind listeners that the other four — (Wesner Emmanuel), who got a total of 98,687 votes; Jean-Robert Sabalat, who got 74,317; Turneb Delpe, who got 15,077; and (Eddy Jeune), who got 14,042 — will participate in the second round of these elections.

What was the atmosphere like around CEP headquarters after the CEP announced last Sunday that the results would be proclaimed after 1700 on Tuesday? As late as midnight last night journalists were in position in front of CEP headquarters, where we observed a large security contingent.

Mobile Unit No. 11 was on alert last night, to follow the publication of the results of these elections. He is going to describe to us the situation around CEP headquarters.

[Begin live relay, in Creole] [Roosevelt] No. 11, I know you can hear me. Good morning. Tell us what things were like in front of CEP headquarters last night, a few hours before the publication of the election results.

[Mobile 11] Thanks, Roosevelt. To all those listening to Signal FM we say: A very good morning to you! [passage omitted]

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For several days now, both Haitians and foreigners have anxiously awaited these results, which werenot forthcoming up to this point. The atmosphere in front of CEP headquarters was very calm. There was not any team providing individual security, as is sometimes the case, nor were there any additional people on duty. I did not notice any members of political parties or representatives of political party leaders awaiting the results of these elections. As we said, everything was calm in front of the CEP headquarters.

Inside, there was psychological pressure at work, because [words indistinct] exerting pressure on the CEP members to obtain the official results of the 25 June elections, because it was at least 1900 hours already [words indistinct] and we didn't have [words indistinct] official results of the elections.

There was one problem due to a power outage at 2100 at CEP headquarters, it lasted for over an hour. Also, the situation was a bit confused for [words indistinct] and had become more serious for other people who were following events. [passage omitted]

After much waiting, at around 0145 [12 July], the CEP managed to reveal the official results of the 25 June 1995 elections, on which we have a report [words indistinct].

We have six deputies elected [brief interruption] country, and the majority are Lavalas. Four senators have been elected. All the others with averages above 0.51 percent are going to run in the second round. [sentence as heard]

You will notice that, for the Department of the West, no senator was elected. That means that everyone who got over 0.50 percent, all those people are going to participate in the second round — such as, for example... [pauses] you have (Wesner Emmanuel); you have Sabalat, who is an independent; [words indistinct] who is from Lavalas; Turneb Delpe, (?FNCD) [National Front for Change and Democracy]; [words indistinct]. All those people will be running in the second round of elections. [passage omitted]

Driving around, we noticed the presence of the Haitian interim police and members of the UN Mission in Haiti in every corner of the capital. There were police grids all over the neighborhoods of Carrefour-Feuilles, Delmas, Bas Peu de Choses, Martissant, and elsewhere. [passage omitted]

We are now going to CEP headquarters to see what things are like. This has been Mobile Unit No. 11 for Signal FM.

[Roosevelt] Mobile 11, are you listening? Were there any political party representatives in front of CEP headquarters at the time the results were made public?

[Mobile 11] No [brief interruption]. As we just said: In (?the flash), we said that [brief interruption] in the afternoon, and well before that. At 0145, when they gave the results, we did not see a single representative of a political party, no member of a political party, standing in front of the CEP. [passage omitted] [end live relay]

I remind listeners that 21 partial elections will be held on the basis of criteria defined by the CEP after consultation with the Departmental Electoral Offices; that is, in communes where elections were not held, communes where the materials were burned following the voting, and especially places where fewer than half of the polling s ations were able to operate normally.

15 Parties: Elections Have 'Zero Credibility'

Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French
1030 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A coalition of 15 political parties continues to demand that the elections be declared null and void.

The 25 June elections have zero credibility. There is no question of accepting the results of these elections, say the political parties, which continue to cling to their demands. The many irregularities noted during these elections are the undeniable proof that Anselme Remy's CEP has no talent whatsoever for this.

These parties demand the resignation of this puppet CEP and that it be replaced by a CEP that is representative and that will be able to do its work properly, so that impartial elections can be held throughout Haiti, says this coalition of political parties, which is demanding that these elections be annulled and the CEP reconstituted.

Party Leaders Comment on Results

Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French
1030 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Panpra's [Nationalist Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] leader contests the results of the 25 June elections. Serge Gilles says he is in favor of a concerted solution between the political parties and the CEP. His party is not going to acknowledge the results of these elections.

[Begin Gilles recording in Creole] For us, it is clear that we cannot agree with the results. That is clear, and the CEP knows it. We tell the CEP that if they publish the results as they are at present, Panpra will not agree. There is no doubt about that.

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We told the CEP [words indistinct] it must reflect upon the catastrophic consequences that this could have. We say to them again: They must, for once, reflect upon the proposal by the political parties. We are calling attention to all the dangers.

I just told you the attitude that will be seen: The moment the results are proclaimed and that we say we do not agree with them, Panpra will hold a meeting to determine [word indistinct] clearly what it is going to do. [end recording]

The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] is already protesting the results of the 25 June elections. The FNCD reiterates its determination not to accept the results of these elections, which it says were rigged in advance. The FNCD says it rejects the results of these elections and will refuse to participate in the second round. FNCD leaders fustigate the CEP authorities, who, they say, have decided to favor a particular political group. Idli Cameau explains:

[Begin Cameau recording in Creole] The FNCD does not agree with any results of the phony, rigged election that the Lavalas' CEP might (?come up with). This means that even if they say that the FNCD won the elections, or that it is going to the second round — whether in a good position or a bad position — we reject it. We reject it because the Haitian people and all other political organizations and parties reject it [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The CEP has guaranteed to give the Table [Lavalas] the majority, so that the Table can make the electoral council a permanent council. We will not be fooled. We hope everyone will be able to understand our position. We ask everyone to understand that situation.

In addition, as a permanent FNCD representative to the CEP, despite all my efforts, I was never allowed by the CEP to be at its side when it made certain decisions. We tried to go where they were counting ballots, at the BED [Departmental Electoral Offices] and BEC [Communal Electoral Offices], but they did not let us enter anywhere in Haiti. That is why we say that the FNCD rejects these shameful, phony, champwel [a reference to secret voodoo societies] elections totally. [end recording]

In connection with the publication of the results of the first round of the elections, this morning candidates and voters in Petit Goave did not disguise their refusal to accept the results of these elections. They are threatening to turn everything topsy turvy should the results not be favorable to them. Here is (Brignol Lindor) in Petit Goave:

[Begin correspondent's live report via telephone, in Creole] The supporters of certain political parties and candidates who participated in the 25 June elections in the commune of Petit Goave are exerting much pressure at present and making many threats. According to the supporters of [name indistinct], FNCD candidate for deputy, that candidate and (Robert Barre), who is the Lavalas candidate, could be in the runoffs. Meanwhile, the supporters of Lavalas think they won the election for deputy, just like the election for [communal] magistrate, in the first round.

For their part, the supporters of the Mobilization for National Development say that if the results of the election do not turn out to be in their favor, they will turn the town of Petit Goave topsy turvy.

We remind listeners that on the night of 6 July 1995.... [loss of reception] [end recording]

Unfortunately, we lost contact with (Brignol Lindor), whom we had on the line from Petit Goave and who was telling us what the situation was like there as regards the atmosphere prevailing a few hours after the publication of the results of these elections.

Lavalas 'Leading' Position Detailed

Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French
1600 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Lavalas candidates are leading in the partial results of the 25 June elections made public last night by the CEP. Twenty people have been elected, according to the first list published by the CEP last night. These 20 — four senators and 16 deputies — belong to the Lavalas organization. [sentence as heard] The CEP says the remaining results will be made public as time goes on.

According to these partial results, the Lavalas organization won four Senate seats in the first round of elections and had 10 candidates with very favorable figures in the first ballot in seven out of Haiti's nine departments. There are 18 seats to fill. It also won 16 races for the position of deputy, and had 39 candidates with favorable figures in the first balloting — to fill 80 seats.

Partial elections will be held on 22 July, according to the CEP, which did not give any official date for the holding of the runoff elections.

The publication of results has provoked a wave of protests from the political class. Political leaders and candidates gave us their opinion in interviews, calling this: a hard blow for democracy, whimsical results, and a chosen list of Lavalas candidates. Most of the political leaders call for annuling the election and reconstituting the CEP.

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First we have a statement by the outgoing mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul, who says that the publication of the results is not going to contribute to consolidating democracy in Haiti. He continues to call for the holding of new elections and for reconstituting the CEP.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Paul] (?Although we did not succeed), we made great efforts to prevent things from going this far [pour ke bagay la pa t' rive la], but unfortunately the CEP did not understand the need for it to have a prudent attitude [youn atitid de sajes]. We think that, in view of such a situation, we will take a stand on the side of the nation's interests and the interests of the Haitian people.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think, Evans Paul, that this might lead to a real political crisis? [passage omitted]

[Paul] Well, I think we have a serious problem, because democracy cannot be a one-way street. These elections have been so greatly contested — and there is proof. There is a lot of evidence that we can show to prove that the elections were no good. I don't think this is going to help the country attain the political stability necessary in order for democracy to advance, so that we can obtain jobs, so that we can attract investors. I think what is happening now is a very, very bad thing. We will continue to talk with everyone who might want to fix this. At the same time, we are standing our ground as regards our position, because we think our position is correct.

[Correspondent] Mr. Paul, there are many reports circulating in Port-au-Prince to the effect that Manno [Emmanuel] Charlemagne won the elections, and that you lost, in the race for mayor of Port-au-Prince.

[Paul] Lost in what? You can lose in something that was proper, that was credible — not in a champwel [reference to secret voodoo societies] election! We will not get into the logic of losing or winning. We are always here for the principles. In an election in which (?two or four) prominent figures run, people will either win or lose. It is the people's vote that should determine that, but it must be without fraud, without maneuvering, without irregularities. There is something that should be fundamental in elections: There should not really be any real losers or any real winners. At the very foundation it must be the nation and democracy that win. [end recording]

That was the statement of the outgoing mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul, spokesman for the FNCD.

Conacom's [National Congress of Democratic Movements] No. 1 man, Victor Benoit, considers unorthodox [fantaisiste] the elections results announcement by the CEP. Benoit calls for holding new elections in at least two-thirds of the national territory, and for reconstitution of the CEP.

[Begin Benoit recording] These results are a continuation of 25 June — a day marked by irregularities, fraud, and a total lack of organization. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Louis Dejoie of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party calls the publication of the results a hard blow to democracy. Mr. Dejoie, who came in fourth in the South, feels that the candidates cited by the CEP in the partial reports were not elected, but appointed. [passage omitted]

Independent Coalition Reacts

95CA9143 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the partial publication of the results of the 25 June elections, the person in charge of the coalition of independent candidates, (Myrtho Bonhomme), (?says) the results are a list of selected Lavalas candidates. He thus contests these results, and calls on the independent candidates to get together so as to reach agreement and adopt a common position.

[Begin Bonhomme recording, in a mixture of French and Creole] In view of the publication of that selected list of candidates, candidates carefully chosen from the Lavalas side, [switches to Creole] we independent candidates today rise up [kanpe] to protest. Our protest is based, normally, on a legal foundation — that is: each candidate should have gone to elections on a just and legal basis. That is: each person had [words indistinct] his emblem; we ourselves did not have ours.

We are going to continue to denounce the results of those elections, because we say those results are not legal.

And the other thing is: We are calling on all independent candidates, [switches to French] who number more than 250 throughout Haiti and who constitute, at present, the rising political force in this country...[switches to Creole, rephrases] We are launching an appeal, to ask them to...[rephrases] those results that have been given out...[rephrases] that we have serious reservations about those results; and that tomorrow — or rather, within 48 hours — we are planning to hold a news conference in Port-au-Prince, at which the spokesmen of this coalition will express their opinions.

We are going to ask all independent candidates to (?rise up) vigilantly with their grassroots supporters [kanpe

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vijilan avek baz yo], remain mobilized, and await the watchword the coalition (?might issue to them). That is what we are planning to do.

And our protests, and all the attitudes we may adopt, will be attitudes based on the law and the Constitution, because it is the Constitution that is our strength. [end recording]

OPL Welcoming; Parties Envisage Boycott

PA1207231995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2150 GMT 12 Jul 95

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 12 Jul (EFE) — Today, after partial results of Haiti's 25 June legislative and municipal elections were announced, the National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD) demanded that the elections be annulled. The FNCD also demanded that urgent charges be made to the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), because it sees irregularities in the partial electoral results announced by the electoral organization. [passage omitted]

The Lavalas Political Organization (OPL), meanwhile, praised the partial results, which showed that Lavalas won in several regions, while other parties won in others. In retrospect, OPL leader Gerar Pierre Charles stated that the CEP did a good job.

Approximately 16 political parties are scheduled to meet at a hotel this afternoon to adopt a joint position on the partial results. Many parties predict they will agree on a boycott of the second round of the elections, which is scheduled to be held on 13 August, even if their candidates were victorious in the 25 June elections. [passage omitted]

On another issue, the CEP reported that pending partial elections will be held in 21 electoral divisions, but the political parties are demanding that such elections be be held in about 100 municipalities and districts.

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President Claims Financial Crisis Rapidly Being Overcome

PA1307023795 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0123 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mexico City, 11 Jul (NOTIMEX) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo said today that his country is rapidly overcoming the financial crisis without the need to impose control mechanisms, which has stimulated economic activities and confidence in investments.

He talked about the crisis that exploded in August 1982 and said that given the structure of the economy, many years went by before the international community reacted favorably in order to partially compensate for the loss of jobs.

"This is only taking us a few months," Zedillo said when inaugurating the first national meeting for the development of suppliers and support for exporters held in the auditorium of the World Trade Center building.

He added that after the 1982 crisis, it took the country almost seven years to return to the international markets, but it has only taken the country a few months on this occasion.

Proof of this, he said, is that this week the country was able to place medium-term federal government bonds in international capital markets.

Zedillo stressed the fact that he is overcoming the crisis without imposing control mechanisms that inhibit the initiatives and capabilities of markets.

He said that the crisis itself has led to a slowing down of the economy.

President Zedillo added, "We will not be satisfied until we have achieved a vigorous and sustained growth rate and until the economic growth can generate the jobs that the Mexican people are demanding."

He said that in spite of the complexity of the crisis, progress is being made in its solution because the groundwork has been laid to achieve a healthy and permanent growth in the economy.

He explained that the crisis was unleashed when the country abruptly lost a huge amount of revenue not only because of the interruption of additional capital flow, but also because of the investment flight of previous years.

In the event, Zedillo witnessed the signature of the cooperation agreement between the ITAM [Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico] and the World Trade Center.

He said exports represent one of the essential mechanisms not only to overcome the economic emergency, but also to achieve a sustained economic growth.

Accompanied by the secretaries of foreign relations, commerce, finance, public education, and tourism, Zedillo said that in the present six-year term the government will invariably promote the export sector.

He explained that the economic conditions provide ample opportunities to promote the efficient replacement of imports, especially intermediate goods.

Last year, he said, the import of intermediate goods reached more than $56 billion. "This figure gives us an idea of the opportunities that exist in this sector and the amount of jobs that can be generated," he said.

The president talked about the policy of replacing imports, which began in the 1940's and continued into the 1980's under a protectionist model.

"An efficient import replacement policy means that national producers of intermediate goods will be able to offer their products at competitive prices and quality at the international level," he said.

The president said that small and medium-sized companies have a special capability to replace imports and that is why he reiterated his government's commitment in promoting medium and small enterprises.

He said several tax measures have already been adopted to facilitate credit, promote deregulation, and encourage training.

Also participating in the event were the president of the World Trade Center, Juan Diego Cortina; the president and general manager of IBM in Mexico, Alfredo Caporte Sanchez; and Luis Ried Kohl, director general of Cal Apasco. [passage omitted]

Industry Leader Says Objective Fulfilled — Revise Economic Plan

PA1207230995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1918 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 11 Jul (NOTIMEX) — Jorge Kahwagi Gastine, president of the Mexican Institute of Medium and Small Industries, today demanded the revision of the economic adjustment program because it has already fulfilled its objective. He stated that production facilities need urgent refurbishing.

In a news conference, the industrial leader warned that the coming months will be difficult. It cannot be said that the closure of businesses and unemployment are a positive trend, he asserted.

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Kahwagi Gastine added that businesses will confront three major problems: growing unemployment, believing that we are a first world country, and the wave of fiscal inspectors harassing industries.

"It is necessary to place great importance on economic recovery, because the drop in demand for goods and services has caused stagnation in production, which is reflected negatively on small and medium-sized industry," the business leader highlighted.

He considers that restructuring debts is not a requirement, adding that the important thing is to overcome the crisis by revamping the economy, as the only way to preserve and create the jobs that are needed.

Kahwagi Gatine noted that the drop in sales and private investment, together with the costs of devaluation, the increase in interest rates, and the hike in raw material prices prompted a reduction in the gross domestic product of the manufacturing and textile sectors, as well as metallic products, machinery and equipment.

The industrial leader remarked that the coming months will be difficult, but Mexico has the human resources to get ahead and, starting next year, begin a new period of real growth on a strong foundation.

Moreno Affirms PRI Won in Chihuahua State

PA1307041895 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report from the "24 Hours" newscast, including recorded passages by Maria de los Angeles Moreno Uriega, president of the PRI National Executive Committee; place and date not given — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maria de los Angeles Moreno Uriega, president of the National Executive Committee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], began a working visit to Chiapas State where she met with several party sectors. Among other things, Moreno Uriega commented on the elections in Chihuahua State.

[Unidentified correspondent] During a news conference, Moreno Uriega stated that despite the fraud the National Action Party [PAN] carried out during the Chihuahua elections, the PRI regained the major cities and a majority in the Chihuahua State Congress. She said the PAN has not shown political maturity and foresaw protests by that party.

[Moreno] They have shown they only know how to criticize, shout, yell, and commit fraud, such as that committed in Chihuahua, which was very serious. However, the PRI is gaining the majority of the victories.

[Correspondent] On the alleged fraud, Moreno Uriega noted:

[Moreno] There were, for example, houses next to the electoral council that had a direct link with the state Attorney General's Office via modem. At some of these locations, computers were detected that could be altering the process and the results. This was taking place not only in the capital but in other areas of the state. There was also the intervention of state judicial authoritie,s who even made a federal deputy who went to observe the elections get out, under the pretext that he might be illegally interfering in the elections. They also forbade and threatened taxi drivers with suspension of their driver licenses because they were transporting general party representatives and legal representatives from other parties.

[Correspondent] Moreno Uriega said the PRI will file a lawsuit at the state electoral tribunal because — she noted — there was direct meddling by Governor Francisco Barrio Terrazas.

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El Salvador

Defense Minister Discusses New Role of Army

PA1307035595 San Salvador Teleprensa Television in Spanish 1619 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Interview with Salvadoran Defense Minister General Humberto Corado by Ernesto Lopez at the El Salvador Hotel in San Salvador — live relay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Lopez] We are here at the El Salvador Hotel just as the Military Justice Conference is about to start. To learn more about the seminar and this morning's opening ceremonies we have our country's Defense Minister General Humberto Corado. Allow me, sir, to thank you beforehand for your time and comments live via microwave. Regarding the Armed Forces, you spoke about the new roles the Armed Forces would be playing. What objectives are you focusing on? What are you working for?

[Corado] We would like to continue the cooperation programs between U.S. and Salvadoran forces. As you know, the institution has undergone certain constitutional changes which have affected the military justice system. It is necessary to learn from the experience of other more developed Armed Forces in the area of military justice. Our military justice code will become a military criminal code, which is being drafted at this time and will be presented to the National Assembly in the coming months.

I think seminars and forums such as this, with the participation of U.S. military justice professionals and our military justice specialists, allow us to hear new ideas and viewpoints about the armed forces within a democratic system. I believe this applies exactly to El Salvador's situation and that is what this seminar is about.

[Lopez] You mentioned the change of roles, but you do not seem to agree fully with the idea. How would you explain that, Mr. Minister?

[Corado] What I have always said is that the constitutional mandate to defend our country has always been the most important role and mission of the Armed Forces. That has not changed. Some people tend to believe that there is a new mission. What actually has happened is that the mission has been restated. We have transferred our public security duties. That, of course, is bound to have a significant impact on the mission of any armed institution. That is what I meant when I said that the basic mission of safeguarding territorial integrity and national sovereignty remain intact, while the others have been restated. [passage omitted]

FMLN's Salvador Mejia Comments on Recent Cuba Trip

PA1307024995 San Salvador Teleprensa Television in Spanish 2155 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Salvador Mejia, international relations secretary of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], commented on his recent trip to Cuba. He traveled with Salvador Sanchez Ceren and Eugenia Chicas, mainly to create a favorable commercial atmosphere for Salvadorans who wish to invest in the island:

[Begin Mejia recording] After the collapse of the Socialist Bloc, Cuba was affected because it was a member of the CEMA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance], which was the Socialist commerce apparatus; all the petroleum that was reaching Havana disappeared. They entered a very critical special period. However, we were able to ascertain that they are already leaving that special period behind. [end recording]

Mr. Mejia added that our country's government is still cautious about establishing commercial exchanges with Cuba. This is isolating the country from the globalization process, because most countries on the American and European continents are already trading with the island. This is due to the great potential it offers to modern technology applied to different areas and also due to the tourist industry, which is currently Cuba's biggest attraction.

During this trip they also visited disabled FMLN members who are receiving technical training in various fields.

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